

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Applicants submit that the instant amendment is proper for entry after final rejection. Applicants note that no question of new matter or any new issues are raised by entry of the instant amendment of the claims, and that no new search is required.

Moreover, Applicants submit that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner enter the instant amendment, consider the merits of the same, and indicate the allowability of the present application and each of the pending claims.

Upon entry of the above amendments claims 2 and 6 will have been amended. Claims 2-13 are currently pending, with claims 5 and 8-13 being withdrawn from consideration in a previous Official Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 7-323403 (JP '403) in view of HOPPER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,520,722).

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 6 have been amended solely in order to more clearly recite the presently claimed invention and to expedite prosecution of the present application.

In this regard, Applicants submit that JP '403 and HOPPER, alone or in any properly reasoned combination, lack any disclosure of the combination of elements as recited in claims 2 and 6.

In particular, both claims 2 and 6 generally set forth a saw blade including: left and right set teeth, which are set in a lateral direction, as viewed in a cutting direction of the cutting teeth; wherein each of the left and right set teeth is a dovetail shaped set tooth having a tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction in addition to being set, each of the left teeth having a left side surface at the dovetail shaped portion and each of the right teeth having a right side surface at the dovetail shaped portion, so that each inclination angle of the left side surface and the right side surface is increased as a result of both the dovetail shape and set of the tooth tip.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that JP '403 discloses the general structure of the presently claimed saw blade. However, the Examiner acknowledges that JP '403 does not disclose the tooth tip being gradually enlarged in a lateral direction. Nevertheless, the Examiner relies on HOPPER as purportedly supplying the acknowledged deficiencies of JP '403.

Contrary to the Examiner's continued assertions, Applicants submit that the devices of the applied art are very different structurally from the presently claimed invention.

More specifically, Applicants submit that, in accordance with the saw blade of the presently claimed invention, in addition to the tip of the tooth being set (i.e., inclination), the tip is also provided with a dovetail shape. Therefore, Applicants submit that, in the present invention, each inclination angle of the left side surface and the right side surface

is increased as a result of both the dovetail shape and set of the teeth (and its tip)[see, e.g., 13F and 15F in the non-limiting embodiment of Figures 1 and 6]

Applicants submit that the aforementioned feature of the presently claimed invention has an advantage over the applied prior art in that the inclination angle is summed up with the inclination angles of the side surfaces (see, e.g., 13F and 15F in the non-limiting embodiment of Figures 1 and 6) of the chips on the tooth tips (i.e., resulting from the dove tail shape of each of the chips on the tooth tips), such that the inclination angle of each of the side surfaces of the chips and on the tooth tips disposed at the left and right set teeth in the vertical direction becomes greater than the inclination angle obtained after setting the left and right set teeth (see, the paragraph beginning on line 15 of page 8 of the Official Action).

Thus, Applicants submit that it is possible to suppress an increase in abrasion upward and downward (i.e., in the vertical direction) even in the case where horizontal (i.e., lateral) abrasion occurs at outside corners of the chip on the tooth tips disposed at left and right set teeth, respectively. That is, Applicants submit that it is possible to suppress an increase in cutting resistance due to the abrasion occurring at the corners of the chips and on the tooth tips and an unstable state of the saw blade caused by an increased partial force in the lateral direction, thus prolonging the lifetime of the saw blade and solving the above-described problems experienced by the saw blade in the prior art (see, the last paragraph on page 8 of the Official Action).

Therefore, even assuming, *arguendo*, that the teachings of HOPPER and JP '403 have been properly combined, Applicants submit that the applied prior art (alone or in any properly reasoned combination) still does not disclose at least the presently claimed

each of the left teeth having a left side surface at the dovetail shaped portion and each of the right teeth having a right side surface at the dovetail shaped portion, so that each inclination angle of the left side surface and the right side surface is increased as a result of both the dovetail shape and set of the tooth tip, as generally recited in claims 2 and 6.

Accordingly, Applicants submits that the rejection of claims 2-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks herein-contained, Applicants submit that independent claims 2 and 6 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 3, 4 and 7, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because of their respective dependencies from independent claims 2 and 6, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY

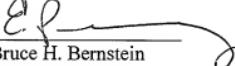
Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note the status of the present application as being an after final rejection and with respect to such status believes that there is a clear basis for the entry of the present amendment consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicants note amendments after final are not entered as a matter of right; however, Applicants submit that the present amendment does not raise new issues or the question of new matter. Moreover, the present amendment clearly places the present application in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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